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LEAVEN LEAVES

Prayers for Contentment and

nation.

Patrick.

141. d.
512.

Leaven Leaves.

"*A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.*"

GALATIANS V. 9.

SEVEN PRAYERS

FOR

CONTENTMENT AND RESIGNATION

TO THE

Will of God.

By BISHOP PATRICK.

EDINBURGH: JAMES HOGG AND SONS.
LONDON: GROOMBRIDGE AND SONS.

MDCCCLVIII.

141. d. 512.

BODLEIANA BIBLIOTHECA

SEVEN PRAYERS

FOR

CONTENTMENT & RESIGNATION.

I.

O LORD, the fountain of all good; whoſe bleſſings are derived in ſeveral channels to us, eſpecially to our ſouls: Unto which all things miniſter, and help to promote their eternal welfare. I ſee the large and abundant proviſion which thou haſt made for them in Chriſt Jeſus. Thou haſt opened the heavens, and let down eternal life unto us. Thou haſt ſet before us the glory of another world, and called us to thy kingdom, and promiſed to make us heirs with thy only-begotten Son, and to give us an everlaſting inheritance. I thank thee, that thou haſt brought the word of thy goſpel ſo nigh me, and put it even into my mouth, and into my heart; and that I have felt thy

Holy Spirit in my ſoul, ſo often diſpoſing my mind and affections to ſeek that bleſſed immortality. Every good thing in this world bids me love thee, and rejoice in thee, who art the giver of it: And all the croſſes likewiſe and afflictions of this life tend to make me happy, by teaching me moderation and ſobriety, humility and heavenly-mindedneſs, faith in thee, and abſolute reſignation to thee, with fervent devotion, and paſſionate deſires after a better life.

O God, how excellent is thy loving-kindneſs! therefore the children of men put their truſt under the ſhadow of thy wings. How inexcuſable ſhall I be, if I ſhould ſtarve in the midſt of ſuch abundance, and periſh, when thou haſt ſent me ſuch great ſalvation? How ſhall I eſcape, if, after thou haſt done ſo much without my thought or labour, I ſhould take no pains to attain the end of thy extraordinary grace towards me? Excite in me, I beſeech thee, a greater ſenſe of thy love, and endue me with a greater care to improve everything to the enriching of my

ſoul with ſpiritual wiſdom, and all divine virtues; that ſo I may be the better able to bear all the troubles of this life; and neither the infirmities and pains of this body, nor the poverty and meanneſs of my outward eſtate, nor the loſs and unkindneſs of friends, nor any other ſad accident, may throw me into diſcontent and impatience of ſpirit: But I may ſtill remember, that, as I ſuffer nothing but what I deſerve, ſo my ſoul may be a gainer by all my ſufferings. Help me, therefore, inſtead of murmuring and repining at my preſent condition, to apply myſelf to make the beſt uſe of it, whatſoever it may be, to my everlaſting advantage. Purify and refine my ſpirit more perfectly from all unreaſonable opinions, and purge out of my heart all inordinate affections. Settle my will in an immoveable ſubmiſſion to thine. And, conſidering both that I am thy creature, and that I am an offender, enable me always to reſt ſatisfied with thy proceedings, and acknowledge that I am leſs than the leaſt of thy mercies.

Pardon, good Lord, all my ingratitude, and indecent complaints; pity my infirmities; accept my holy deſires; confirm all my good purpoſes; ſtrengthen and empower my endeavours, that I may mortify every bad diſpoſition in me, faithfully diſcharge my duty, rightly uſe thy various bleſſings, patiently bear the heavieſt afflictions, and make for my ſoul moſt certain proviſion; by all the means of grace, by the good counſels of others, the inſpirations of the Holy Ghoſt, thy many remarkable providences about me, and whatſoever courſes thou takeſt with me, to bring me ſafe through this life, to a happy eternity. *Amen.*

II.

I proſtrate myſelf before thee, O Lord of heaven and earth, the eternal God; who art all that can poſſibly be, and whoſe goodneſs deſigns to make us happy both here and for ever. I acknowledge that it is only of thy infinite goodneſs that I am not as miſerable as any in the world are.

That I enjoy ſo many bleſſings, which ought to make me rejoice in thee, more than any trouble can give me cauſe to complain, is to be aſcribed merely to thy good-will towards me. I am aſhamed to think that the moſt excellent knowledge which thou haſt communicated to me of thyſelf, and of thy Son Jeſus, hath had no greater effect upon my heart, to diſpoſe me to love thee, to reſt ſatisfied in thy love, to ſtudy to be quiet, and to be contented with my portion; which is ſo fair and liberal in compariſon with many other in this troubleſome world.

Thou haſt ſet before me thy grace and love in ſo clear and full a manner, that it ought to ſtir up the greateſt admiration, and make me delight in the meditation of it. Thy power, and greatneſs, and purity likewiſe, is ſo apparent, that it ought to make me fear, leſt I ſhould offend thy love by unthankfulneſs and diſcontent, or any other way. Thy wiſdom directs me; thy truth and faithfulneſs upholds and aſſures me; thy tender mercies encourage me; and even

thy ſeverity moves me to fly from that which would utterly undo me. There is nothing in thee, but I am the better for it. Thou art altogether excellent even in our eyes, and far more excellent in the eyes of angels and more underſtanding creatures. They rejoice always to behold thy face, and perpetually praiſe thee. But thou art infinitely more excellent in thyſelf, than we, or they, or any creature elſe, can comprehend.

How would my heart be pricked with deſires to know thee more? How would my ſpirit be inflamed with the moſt ardent love to thee? How quiet and joyful ſhould I be in thy love, if I did really feel the ſenſe of what I have confeſſed, and uttered nothing with my mouth but what was firſt in the profoundeſt depth of my heart? But, alas! we have too ſuperficial thoughts of thee: Our words are apt to be fuller than our ſenſe: And therefore, I fall down before thee, and beſeech thee to help me to conſider over again what I have ſaid of thee; and to make me feel ſomething in my ſoul

of thy divine majeſty, too big for my mouth. Make me heartily and deeply ſenſible of thy omnipotent greatneſs, of thy no leſs omnipotent goodneſs, of thy unſpotted holineſs, of thy unſearchable wiſdom, of thy bottomleſs mercy, and juſt indignation at thoſe ſins whereby we provoke thee: That ſo I may fear thee, and truſt in thee, and earneſtly ſtudy to reſemble thee in what I am able, and to admire and adore thee in thoſe things which are above our imitation. O that the leaſt ſin may be more hateful to me than the greateſt miſery of this life; and the leaſt degree of goodneſs more lovely in my eyes than the higheſt worldly proſperity.

Endue me with a ſettled, quiet, and compoſed temper of ſpirit, like that of the celeſtial natures. Make me conſtant and immoveable in the choice of my happineſs. Fix a perpetual cauſe of joy in my heart, and fill me with that heavenly ſenſe of things, which will be always ſpringing up in delightful thoughts, and comfortable hopes, and cheerful praiſes and thankſgivings

to thee, my God. Seal up my heart with ſuch a ſenſe of thyſelf, that nothing may hereafter be admitted there, but what will let me love thee better than it, with the pureſt and ſtrongeſt affection. And, ſeeing thou haſt deſigned us to an excellent condition, help me ever to mind thoſe heavenly things; and not ſet my heart on lower enjoyments, which thou doſt not think to be good enough for me. Remember me on all occaſions, how frail theſe comforts are, which I am apt ſo eagerly to purſue, and cloſely embrace: That I may love them as dying things, and reſign them back to thee with a willing heart, and an undiſturbed ſpirit; bleſſing thee who haſt let me enjoy them ſo long, and prepared better bleſſings for me by patient and contented ſubmiſſion to thee, when thou depriveſt me of theſe.

Behold, O Lord, I commit myſelf unto thee, and all I have, with a perfect truſt and confidence in thee. I know thou intendeſt my good in all that befalls me; and thy wiſdom knows how to effect it, even contrary to my inclinations and natural de-

ſires. Preſerve, I beſeech thee, this reſolution in my heart for ever, to commend myſelf unto thee in doing good with a cheerful mind, and enduring evil with a patient ſpirit: That ſo I may honour my Lord and Maſter Chriſt Jeſus, and be an ornament to his religion, and declare the power and force of that faith which I have entertained. O that I may never come behind thoſe who had leſs knowledge of thee, but rather excel them as much in contented and conſtant ſubmiſſion to thy will, as I do in my underſtanding of it. And make me every day to grow in both; to make a great increaſe in wiſdom and virtue, until I come to perfection, and be fit to be removed hence from all the troubles of this life, unto reſt and peace, in uninterrupted joys, with my bleſſed Saviour. *Amen.*

III.

O God, in whoſe preſence is fulneſs of joy, and at whoſe right hand there are pleaſures for evermore: We ſee daily, how uncertain and empty all our enjoyments are

in this world; and are directed by our constant experience to look up higher, and fix our hearts on thee, for our true contentment and satisfaction of spirit. Our eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor our ear filled with hearing; but after all that we possess, our spirits are still thirsty, and craving more. The very love of ourselves, and our own ease, carries us unto thee: for we are extremely miserable, even in the midst of abundance, if we want thee. Blessed be thy goodnses, that I know thee, and thy exceeding great love to mankind in Christ Jesus. Blessed be thy infinite grace that I understand where my happiness lies; and am not left to wander after the foolish desires of my own heart. O turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity, and quicken me in thy way. Fasten my mind on that immoveable bliss, which our Lord hath discovered unto us, and fill me with a constant delight and joy in contemplation of it; that so I may not lay out my strength for that which is not bread, and my labour for that which satisfieth not; but earnestly

purſue that everlaſting life, the very hope of which is ſo ſweet and comfortable in this world.

Thou haſt not made me, I know, to be miſerable here; for thou art the Father of mercies, and takeſt pleaſure in enriching others with thy benefits. It is thy glory to do good: Thou openeſt thy hand, and ſatisfieſt the deſire of every living thing. The whole creation acknowledges thy bounty; and therefore I ſhould be the moſt ungrateful wretch, if I ſhould not rejoice in it, which hath made me to want nothing but what I may eaſily enjoy, and hitherto hath ſupplied all my needs with a continued care and kindneſs. Preſerve me, O Lord, in a ſober and ſerious ſenſe of the ſtate of my own nature, and of the condition of all things round about me. That I may not ſtretch my deſires greedily after that which I do not need, and which cannot ſatisfy and fill up the vaſt emptineſs of my ſoul, if I did enjoy it. Make me ſo wiſe as to reflect continually upon the trouble as well as pleaſure that I am like to meet withal in every

change; that ſo I may be modeſt in my deſires, and purſue what I deſire with an indifferent mind, and enjoy what thou beſtoweſt on me with a thankful and charitable heart, and with a quiet and undiſturbed ſpirit, reſign it back into thy hands, when thou calleſt for it. O bleſſed Jeſus, as thou haſt made thyſelf my example, ſo be thou pleaſed to be my guide. Inſpire me with the ſame thoughts, inclinations, deſires, and reſolutions, which were in thy bleſſed nature. Help me to place my ſatisfaction there, where thou liveſt in perpetual peace, amidſt all the troubles and vexations of this life. Raiſe my ſpirit to that great and ſublime good, which none can touch, much leſs remove; that, remaining in an unſhaken poſſeſſion of thy love, and being lifted up in noble hopes of the glory to which thy love will promote thy faithful ſervants, I may not feel myſelf altered by any of the changes which are in the things that are under my feet. Diſpoſe my mind, O God, to the ſweeteſt and moſt gentle compliance with thy providence; and make me ſo perfectly

in love with thy will, that all that is great or glorious, or delightful in this world, I may enjoy in a pure and clear conſcience, void of offence towards thee and towards all men. O the delicioufneſs of thoſe pleaſures! O the divineneſs of thoſe joys! Bleſs me daily with a ſtronger taſte of them, and ſatisfaction in them, till I come to enjoy that reward of well-doing, which exceeds all thoughts and deſires, through our Lord and Saviour Chriſt Jeſus. *Amen.*

Our Father, &c.

IV.

O eternal God, who art the firſt and the fountain-good, from whom all other things flow: I and all men elſe are but as ſo many little drops from thee; yea, the whole world is but as the drop of a bucket, and the ſmall duſt of a balance, in compariſon with thy greatneſs. Thou art our only happineſs, the true joy and reſt of our ſouls; and ſo we ſhould feel, and not only ſay, were we well acquainted with thee. O what delight! What height of joy would it create

in my ſoul (did I but apprehend what thou art), to think that thou, who art ſo great, and needeſt not anything, wilt offer thyſelf unto us, ſuch poor things, to be our God, our portion, and our exceeding great reward! If my mind was deeply ſenſible of thee, it would be as hard to draw mine eyes from thee, as now it is to turn them towards thee. I ſhould never love to be abſent from thee: I ſhould ſigh and mourn after thee: O how would my ſoul languiſh in deſires to enjoy more of thee! But now in this dark and ignorant ſtate wherein we are, alas! I can think but ſeldom of my happineſs; and when I do, my thoughts are ſhort, and raiſe me up but to ſmall glances of thee. My meditations are as dreams that ſoon vaniſh, and are preſently forgotten. O what a dull and cold image of thee do they leave upon my heart! How ſoon doth all that warmth of love and joy, which I at any time feel, expire and faint away! I adore thy unſpeakable goodneſs, O moſt bleſſed for evermore, that thou wilt accept of ſuch poor love, and praiſe, and ſervice as

I am able to tender unto thee. And it is the unfeigned deſire and ſtudy of my ſoul, to preſent thee with a heart more devoted to thee, and poſſeſſed with a holy ſenſe of thee, and conſtant delight in thee. I bleſs thee with my all, my ſoul, for all the ways and means whereby thou bringeſt thyſelf to our notice, and to our remembrance, and provokeſt our love and affection to thee, who haſt the moſt abſolute title to it.

Thy wiſe and fatherly Providence is to be acknowledged, even in all the troubles and afflictions of this life: And when thou chaſteneſt us, we ought to confeſs thy love is great, which makes the moſt diſtaſteful things to be friendly to us, and the inſtruments of our eternal good. We are extremely indebted to thee, if thou wilt by any means be pleaſed to bring us more acquainted with thee our chiefeſt joy; and accordingly ought to ſubmit ourſelves to whatſoever thou wilt order for us, with humble, meek, and contented ſpirits. I will never murmur, O Lord, nor repine at anything that befalls me: I will never queſtion thy

care of me, but always ſay, It is the Lord, let him do as ſeems good in his ſight. Join my heart in a cloſer affection to thee; give me but to taſte and reliſh more the words of eternal life; lead me but more and more into the knowledge of myſelf, and all things here; carry me but above this world, and make me like my Saviour, and deal with me as thou pleaſeſt.

I ſee the benefit I may receive, even by the loſs of anything in this world. Lord, vouchſafe me the grace, that I may ſtudy to improve in goodneſs, according to my knowledge. And though my nature may be apt to be impatient of many troubles, of reproaches offered to me by my enemies, or unkindneſs from my friends; yet enable me to reap much good by ſuch evil means, and not to think ſo much of what I ſuffer, as of what I have enjoyed, and of what, through thy grace, I may ſtill enjoy, and never loſe. Diſpoſe me, O God, I again beſeech thee, by all afflictions, to be better acquainted with thyſelf; to learn to ſeek my happineſs in the other world (of which I

beſeech thee to give me a ſtronger taſte); to ſee what is amiſs in my own ſoul, and to amend it; to improve in the moſt excellent virtues, by entire ſubmiſſion to thy fatherly Providence. O that death, by this means, may grow more familiar to my thoughts; and that, while I live, I may uſe all the pleaſures of this world diſcreetly and thankfully, and do the more good with that which I muſt ſhortly leave; and that, when thou calleſt for anything I have, I may return it back willingly and cheerfully, ſaying, The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; bleſſed be the name of the Lord from henceforth, and for ever. *Amen.*

V.

O eternal God, who only haſt immortality, and dwelleſt in ſuch unapproachable light and glory, as our clothed ſpirits cannot behold, nor enter into its brightneſs. If we can at any time look out of our bodies, and ſee beyond this world, and have ſome little beam of that light communicated unto us; we can apprehend nothing ſo beautiful

and attractive, nothing ſo ſatisfying and contenting, nothing ſo delicious and raviſhing to our ſpirits. It even invites them to quit theſe bodies, and makes us willing then to go from hence, that we may be with thee.

It is thy goodneſs which hath imparted ſuch a capacity to us, that we may underſtand thee in ſome meaſure, and the things that thou haſt made; which all repreſent, to our great admiration and delight, thy wiſdom, power, goodneſs, and infinite majeſty, in their vaſt numbers, and comely variety wherein they ſtand or move. It is but fit that we ſhould abſolutely ſubmit ourſelves unto thee, who art ſo great; and that we ſhould never in the leaſt diſpute thy orders, who couldſt contrive ſuch a mighty fabric as this, and who ſupporteſt and governeſt it continually in an admirable conſtancy. Behold, O Lord, in a firm belief that thou art, and that thou art moſt perfect; in a high admiration of thee, and an unfeigned deſire to agree with thee, I yield up myſelf to follow thy counſels, to obey thy orders, and to endure whatſoever it is

thy pleaſure ſhall befall me in this world. It is by thee alone that I or any other creatures have a being. And I know thou art ſo good, that thou haſt not made me to be miſerable; and that thy wiſdom is ſo great, as to be able to bring the greateſt good out of that which ſeems moſt to prejudice my happineſs.

I adore thy power, and truſt myſelf in the arms of thine infinite mercy, which embraces all creatures. I believe that thou who art ſo incomprehenſible, canſt not pleaſe thyſelf in grieving ſuch poor things as we are, who, if we were greater, have no power to reſiſt thy will. Imprint theſe thoughts, O Lord, ſo deeply in my mind, that I may ever reverence thee, and give thee my thanks that I have a being, and am capable of immortality; and rejoice that I live under thy wiſe and good government; and acknowledge thee in all the good things that I enjoy, which can do me no good without thee; and humbly bear thy chaſtiſements, which cannot hurt me, whilſt my mind and heart is fixed on thee. Enlarge

my thoughts beyond myſelf, that I may be well pleaſed, if others gain by that which is my loſs. And help me eſpecially to deſire the eternal happineſs of mankind, and to rejoice in thy long-ſuffering and patient charity, even towards thoſe who are evil; nothing doubting, but that thy fatherly love will have a more tender regard to me, while I endeavour to do good.

O that the ſame ſpirit may be in me, which was in thoſe holy men, who have left us an example of contentedneſs and patience; that I may not only commend them, but imitate and follow them, as they were followers of thee, and of our Lord. Fix my mind ſo ſteadfaſtly on thee, that it may be my conſtant and immoveable will to follow thee, whitherſoever thou leadeſt me. And poſſeſs me with ſuch a deep ſenſe of thy unſearchable underſtanding, that I may neither preſume to judge thy Providence, nor be ſo fooliſh as to diſtruſt thy conduct, or murmur at thy appointments: but ſtill remembering that thy judgments are a great deep; all the diſplea-

ſure, and diſguſt, and ſorrow, and grief, and fears, and cares, and other troubleſome paſſions that are apt to ariſe in my heart, may be ſwallowed up in the thoughts of thy infinite wiſdom, and no leſs infinite love.

I have the greater reaſon to ſubmit myſelf, with a humble confidence in thee, conſidering all the good that I have received already from thy bounty. Thy benefits are innumerable; ſo that, if I ſhould ſpend all that time, which I am too ready to waſte in complaints, in recounting thy favours, I ſhould not be able to come to the end of them. O God, raiſe my ſpirit more and more to that heavenly employment. Let the remembrance of thy mercies be ever dear and ſweet to me: And let not the bitterneſs of any affliction ever make me to forget the ſweetneſs of them, but rather excite me to ſhow myſelf more grateful to thee, that I was not always ſo afflicted. I commend both ſoul and body unto thy care and bleſſing; not knowing to what thou haſt reſerved me; but reſolving ſtill to ſay,

in every condition, The Lord is good, and doth good. Let it be as ſeemeth good in his ſight. And bleſſed be the name of the Lord. *Amen.*

VI.

I adore and praiſe, O Lord, thy greatneſs, thy power, wiſdom, and goodneſs, which ſhine in all thy works of creation and providence. They all ſhow forth the majeſty of thy glory; and are placed and move in ſuch comely order, that thou thyſelf rejoiceſt in all thy works, and art perfectly pleaſed even in that which gives us grief and trouble. It is our duty, O bleſſed God, to be pleaſed too, and to rejoice in this knowledge which thou haſt given us of thee, who art from everlaſting to everlaſting, and changeſt not, but art ever the ſame immutable love, exerciſing the moſt wiſe and tender Providence in every part of this great world; and more eſpecially over mankind, to whom thou haſt ſhown the higheſt kindneſs, and given unqueſtionable teſtimonies of thy ſingular care of them, and good will towards them.

There is nothing, I am ſenſible, ſo unſeemly as a diſcontented mind, repining at the preſent, or diſtruſting thee for the future; eſpecially in us, who have been ſo ſtrangely favoured by thee, and had particular aſſurance of thy moſt gracious inclinations and purpoſes to make us happy for ever. I am aſhamed, O my good God and loving Father, that ſo much as one complaining thought ſhould ariſe in my heart; beſeeching thee to pardon me, and to repreſent thyſelf ſo fully and feelingly to me, that I may with a ſerene and untroubled mind receive whatſoever ſhall befall me; yea, rejoice that thy moſt holy will is done, though never ſo croſs and contrary unto mine. O, ſweet Jeſus, who didſt poſſeſs little, and enjoy much; who didſt endure much, and not complain at all; whoſe charity was far larger than all the wants of miſerable creatures; who provideſt even for their pleaſure and decent entertainment; and, by humbling thyſelf, haſt obtained a moſt glorious power, and promiſed to bleſs us, and never leavé us nor forſake us; bleſs me, I moſt humbly be-

ſeech thee, with the ſame contented mind and ſpirit. Imprint on my heart the image of thy humble, meek, and patient goodneſs. Make me feel that thy merciful kindneſs endures for ever; and fill my ſoul with that meat which abideth to everlaſting life, as once thou didſt the bodies of thy diſciples with the meat that periſheth. While I think of what thou waſt, and what thou art, and what thou haſt done, and what thou art able, and haſt promiſed ſtill to do for us, transform me by that means into the very ſpirit which was in thee; that I may be lowly in heart, and ſatisfied with my preſent portion, and do good, and endure evil; and conform to thy will in everything; in imitation of thy moſt excellent example, and in hope of that complete bliſs, which thou art able, and intendeſt, I ſee, to beſtow upon me, both in ſoul and body, in an immortal life.

O God, what things are thoſe which thou haſt laid up for thoſe that fear thee; for theſe that truſt in thee, and depend entirely on thy goodneſs, and ſubmit to thy

will and pleaſure! In what a kind relation art thou pleaſed to ſtand unto us, that we may be confident thou dearly loveſt us, and wilt take care of us? All ages have experienced this love, that thou, Lord, haſt not forſaken them that ſeek thee: Therefore thy face evermore will I ſeek. I will never doubt of thy merciful kindneſs; but always believe that thou art gracious and full of compaſſion; juſt and true in all thy ways, O thou King of ſaints. Confirm and ſtrengthen theſe holy purpoſes in me, by the aſſiſtance of thy good Spirit, making theſe thoughts more ſtrong, more lively, and mightily affecting my heart; ſo that I may be able to ſay, "The Lord is my helper, I will not fear what man can do unto me." He hath not ſpared his only Son, but delivered him up for us all: How ſhall he not with him give us all things? I will bleſs the Lord at all times, his praiſe ſhall be conſtantly in my mouth, my ſoul ſhall make her boaſt in the Lord, and I will rejoice in his ſalvation.

O bleſſed day, when we ſhall ſee Jeſus again, and feel him changing this vile body,

and making it like his glorious body, by the power whereby he can ſubdue all things to himſelf! O happy day, when all tears ſhall be wiped away from our eyes; and there ſhall be no ſighing nor ſorrow, but preſent ſatisfaction and joy for evermore! Help me always to comfort myſelf in every condition with the hopes of that joyful time, and to prepare myſelf for the bleſſedneſs of it; by doing thee all the honour I can in this world; eſpecially by teſtifying, through a meek, patient, and cheerful ſuffering of all the troubles of this life, that thou art wiſe and good, and bountiful to all thy faithful ſervants, and that thy ſervice in the midſt of my ſufferings, is better than all the pleaſures of ſin, which endure but for a ſeaſon.

O God, I deſire always to give thee this glory; and to count it an honour that I can bear witneſs to thee, by a contented virtue, in every ſtate and condition of life. I eſteem that approbation and praiſe which I hope for from thee, far above all the dignities and preferments of this world. Do thou, O Lord, but allow of me for thy

good and faithful ſervant; and make me but to feel the comfort of that joyful voice, which I hope to hear, "Well done, good and faithful ſervant, enter into thy Maſter's joy;" and do with me what thou pleaſeſt. I confide in thee for that happineſs, and for all things elſe. I leave myſelf wholly to thy diſpoſal. I depend abſolutely on thy wisdom, and thy good-will and kindneſs, which I intruſt with all that concerns me. I reſolve to be ſatisfied with what thou ordereſt, and ſtill to ſpeak good of thee; hoping, that whilſt I have this good heart towards thee, I ſhall at all times rejoice with a cheerful countenance. *Amen, Amen.*

VII.

O moſt holy and ever-bleſſed God, when we turn our eyes from this world, towards thyſelf, we cannot but account it our higheſt happineſs that we know thee to be the author of it, and that we know thou ruleſt and governeſt in heaven and earth, and humbleſt thyſelf to take a ſpecial notice of us, the children of men; whoſe affairs thou

adminiſtereſt with ſuch great reaſon, wiſdom, and juſtice, and haſt declared thyſelf ſo abundant in goodneſs and tender mercy, that we ought not to ſuſpect thee of any unkindneſs to us, or entertain any hard thoughts of thee, notwithſtanding any miſery that may befall us: but in every ſtate and condition of life, to adore thy power, and commend ourſelves to thy wiſdom, and hope in thy goodneſs, and reſt ſatisfied of thy intentions of giving us better goods, than we are naturally apt to deſire.

According, O Lord, I here bow down my very ſoul before thee, and, with the greateſt humility of ſpirit, ſubmit myſelf, both to what thou wouldſt have me to do, and what thou wouldſt have me to endure. I know that I cannot but be ſafe in thy hands, and that no harm can come unto me, while my heart is poſſeſſed with a due care to pleaſe thee, rather than to eaſe myſelf. Settle in me, O bleſſed God, right notions and apprehenſions of thee. Perſuade me perfectly, as of thy being, ſo of thy providence and excellent counſel, and

fatherly care, and almighty love, that can turn the greateſt evils of this world into our greateſt good. Fill my mind with ſuch a ſtrong and lively belief of thy moſt bleſſed and gracious nature, that none of the croſſes of this life may ever ſhake my hope in thee, or make me murmur or repine at anything which thou thinkeſt fit ſhould be my portion. Endue me likewiſe with a right ſenſe of the nature of all thoſe things, whether good or evil, which we deſire to enjoy or to avoid; that the want of the one, or the ſuffering of the other, may not ſeem ſo conſiderable, as to alter my thoughts of thee, or weaken my belief in thee, or diſturb the holy peace and joy, which the thoughts of thy good-will towards me are apt to raiſe up in me. Help me by wiſe and compoſed thoughts to moderate all my deſires after thoſe goods that are without me; to be contented with thoſe that are within myſelf, which none can take away from me; to value all things by their end and uſe; to enjoy what I have temperately; and to live in a humble ſenſe that I have nothing, but

what comes from thee, and is the fruit of thy free bounty: That ſo I may return it quietly, and acknowledge that in all conditions I have more than I deſerve.

Adorn my ſoul with all the graces of thy Holy Spirit, that ſo I may have peace within, in the midſt of all troubles which ſurround me, and the ſplendour of Chriſtian virtues may ſhine forth in the greateſt darkneſs. Enable me always to prize innocence more than pleaſure or greatneſs, or any other worldly good; to ſhow forth the power of godlineſs, and a divine nature, under all the preſſures and ſufferings that I may lie under: That honouring my religion, it may be an ornament and a crown of glory to me, both now, and in the great day of the Lord Jeſus.

I commend myſelf unto thee, O God, who canſt not miſguide me; and perfectly knoweſt what is fitteſt and moſt convenient for me in every part of my life. Bear me up againſt all diſcouragement, by wiſe and pious thoughts, eſpecially by a firm and mighty ſenſe that thou art good, and doſt

good, and haſt ſhown thyſelf moſt excellently good to us in our Lord Chriſt Jeſus, by whom I will give praiſe and thanks unto thee for ever and ever.

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